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MODERN, EFFICIENT BANKING SERVICE . . . THE OUTCOME OF 118 YEARS' SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

intercourse. This great national exhibition at Toronto stands in a class by itself there are hundreds of agricultural fairs and exhibitions held throughout the Dominion. They afford important lessons on the advance of present-day agriculture besides serving as long look-forward to centres of social pleasures. The Dominion and provincial government help financially and otherwise in fostering these fairs and it is on account of the great educational value of these exhibits that the Dominion Experimental Farms of the Dominion Department of Agriculture take an active part. The exhibits of the Farms which are prepared by the Publicity and Extension Branch show the latest developments in agriculture. Through these exhibits of practical utility by printed pamphlets and explanations by word of mouth from the exhibition staff much information of practical value is imparted.

Although Canada has worked out her own method of enlarging the educational outlook in agriculture through new things seen and heard the idea of the agricultural fair is as old as the hills. Based on the experience of the reign of Cargon in B.C. 3889 B.C. of Khammu-bi the Babylonian Emperor B.C. 2250' lays down the law for the proper conduct of trade at fairs and elsewhere. In China the Emperor Fu-hi in B.C. 2852 issued orders regarding agricultural fairs which were very effectively dealt with by his successor, Sungnung "the Great Agriculturist". Later came the Greek festival and fair at Delos with the Olympian games; ancient Italy had the vast annual assembly at Volturina; India the great annual fair at Hurdwar on the Upper Ganges; Russia with Nijia Novgorod Germany with Leipzig and Frankfurt; and England with Stow, Barnet and Nottingham.

Throughout the ages there has been no cessation. The agricultural fair is a perpetual institution. Modern invention encourages it. The more there is to learn, the bigger the fair ought to be. And as a matter of fact the attendance at fairs are bigger than ever. In other times a fair could be attended only with loss of time often under great difficulties. Today a farmer can go to a fair a substantial distance from his home in his motor car in a comparatively short time. He can spend exactly what time he can afford and be home again in quick order. If he desire to pay another visit, or to make a daily visit, he can do so easily fifty years ago that would have been a matter of considerable difficulty and inconvenience if not almost impossible. Instead of the buggy, the young farmer drives his bride in the latest streamlined car, and just as of old the eligible bachelor may meet his desired fate at the agricultural fair.

Ontario Ski-Zone Committee Will Meet

Lovers of skiing throughout Ontario and especially Northern Ontario will be pleased to learn that the Ontario Ski Zone Committee will make a definite effort to promote the sport of skiing and organize different clubs in Northern Ontario at a meeting of the Committee which will be held North Bay on October 4th.

Present at this meeting will be T. H. (Sam) Cliff, former President of the Toronto Ski Club and Chairman of the Ontario Ski Zone Committee; Clare Duffus, President of the Kitchener Ski Club; Fred Hall, 1935 President of the Toronto Ski Club; Bruce Simmons former president of the Huntsville Ski Club; E. Roy Herbert, of the North Bay Ski Club, and several others prominent in skiing circles.

All of these men are definitely interested in the organization of skiing and ski clubs throughout Ontario.

They are giving their time and providing their own expenses to attend the meeting at North Bay in the hope that the skiers of Northern Ontario will be sufficiently interested to attend this meeting and learn at first hand how they can develop ski clubs in each town.

The Ontario Ski Zone Committee

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The Agricultural Fair

ITS ORIGIN—HISTORY, and PURPOSE

Walk up! Walk up! Ladies and Gentlemen. The season of the agricultural fair is about to commence. Starting in Eastern Canada, and onwards in rapid succession throughout the West. All the latest and best exhibits with the work and progress of local, provincial, and Dominion agriculture will be on view, to mark, learn and inwardly digest.

In no country has the agricultural fair been a greater factor in social and economic progress than in Canada. There were conditions peculiarly Canadian. The gregarious instinct of early settlers their unswerving resolve to conquer the innumerable difficulties surrounding them, the hazards of travel, and the dense forests preventing the extended contact of the pioneers with their fellow men, all contributed to the moulding of the Canadian character, mainly through the peculiar emphasis devolving on the agriculture fairs of the country. And there were fairs and many of them from the beginning.

Before the first Canadian census was taken, in 1666 the fun of the fair was relegated mostly to private celebration after the barter of peace

hemp, fresh and dry cod, salted salmon, eels, seals, and porpoise oil, clapboards and planks drummed, boiling cloth cloth made from nettles, serge, leather, and furs at Quebec. Three Rivers or Montreal, while, later as the result of the establishment of agricultural societies in both Lower and Upper Canada agricultural fairs blossomed out into full social economic and political institutions.

In Upper Canada, the Niagara Peninsula has always been intimately associated with the trade and barter of agricultural produce. In 1535 Jacques Cartier observed the practice of members of a tribe in the Peninsula who were noted traders in tobacco moving freely among other tribes and at times staging an exhibition that nowadays would be classed as a tobacco fair. However that may be the first agricultural society with accompanying fairs to be recorded in Upper Canada in 1791 on the separation of the province with Lower Canada was the Niagara Agricultural Society. Similar societies soon spread to other parts of the province and in 1806 at York (Toronto) an attempt was made to form a province-wide society. In 1822 the great fair at Queenston was intended as the first all-province show but was not inconveniently crowded.

Throughout the past 140 years the various governments Dominion and Provincial have regarded fairs with more than a kindly a means of social progress. In 1818 the Legislature of Lower Canada passed an Act granting financial aid to the district

county agricultural societies and in 1830 and in the Provincial Parliament of Upper Canada made an allowance of £100 (\$500) to encourage the establishment of agricultural societies.

Since that time both Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture have continued to give assistance to agricultural fairs.

Before 1840 when the Provinces were re-united fairs had been held at York, Cobourg, Port Hope, Perth, Guelph, Hamilton, Nelson, Waterloo, Brantford and had proved of great social importance, paving the way for the desired provincial organization which was established in 1846. In that year under the auspices of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada, a fair was held in Toronto which today is of world-wide renown. The agricultural society in Canada was something very necessary to the country and, because of the peculiar conditions became typical Canadian. The society was the nucleus of social contacts and the semi-annual fair was its expansive gesture. The societies met once a month when the members and guests dined together under the direction of stewards who were responsible for the details connected with the banquets. Full advantage was taken of this social opportunity, but it was at the fair that the inhabitants of the district enacted themselves.

The fair usually lasted for four days. On the business side the questions of improvement of stock and crops came first, then the judging of horses, cattle and grain, followed on the following day with the distribution of prizes. On the third day the ploughing match to decide the district champ took place and on the fourth day, exciting horse races made a grand finale.

But the business side was not the only nor the most important angle. The enlargement of knowledge through visual and social contact and the increase in the circle of friends were important factors in the early days and remain so at the present time, while the elders talked crops and decided prizes the wives and children made most of this opportunity for community gossip and discussion of fashions. What was a la mode in York might be anathema in Perth, but, then, many young farmers and many a winsome lass pinning to leave the paternal home met their fates at the fair and lo! another farm would be cleared out of the bush. There was also the chance show off local talent, and many a younger swain drove off to the fair with a spanking team to call the attention of all and sundry to the beauty of his affianced. Jovial dinners by day, dancing and sing-songs by night left to be desired.

Later, with the advent of better transportation came "all the fun of the fair" with its brazen caliope and modern contraption. Today the pictures, symphony orchestras, and dinners at a restaurant supplant the older but the mood and the meaning are the same—an opportunity for social

CAN IT BE DONE? — By Ray Gross



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